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No.75 45p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

Splendid Competition!
1st part inside!

A NEW TYRE FOR BERTIE PLEASE!

ISSN 0954-9390
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THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Bertie the Bus enjoys his work on the Island of Sodor. Bertie carries out his work with a friendly smile and is always prepared to be of help, if he can! One day, as Bertie was crossing one of the level crossings on the Fat Controller's railway, there was a loud bang! What do you think it was? You can find out when you read the story that starts opposite! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

A SPLENDID COMPETITION JUST FOR YOU!

Don't miss the first part of our splendid competition, to win a **Thomas the Tank Engine Sit 'n' Ride Baby Walker** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd*, on page 8! The second part will be in **issue 76!**

HELLO THERE!

The Fat Controller would like to say a very special hello to the following readers:

Jocelyn Richard Tomlinson (33087), aged 2, **Thomas Kerin (29046)**, **Thomas Ripley (17733)**, **Samantha Ripley (24321)**, **Jonathon Paul Canning (32043)**, aged 6 and **Joe Cason (32800)**.

If you are a club member and would like to receive a special mention on this page, just send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **yellow**, **red** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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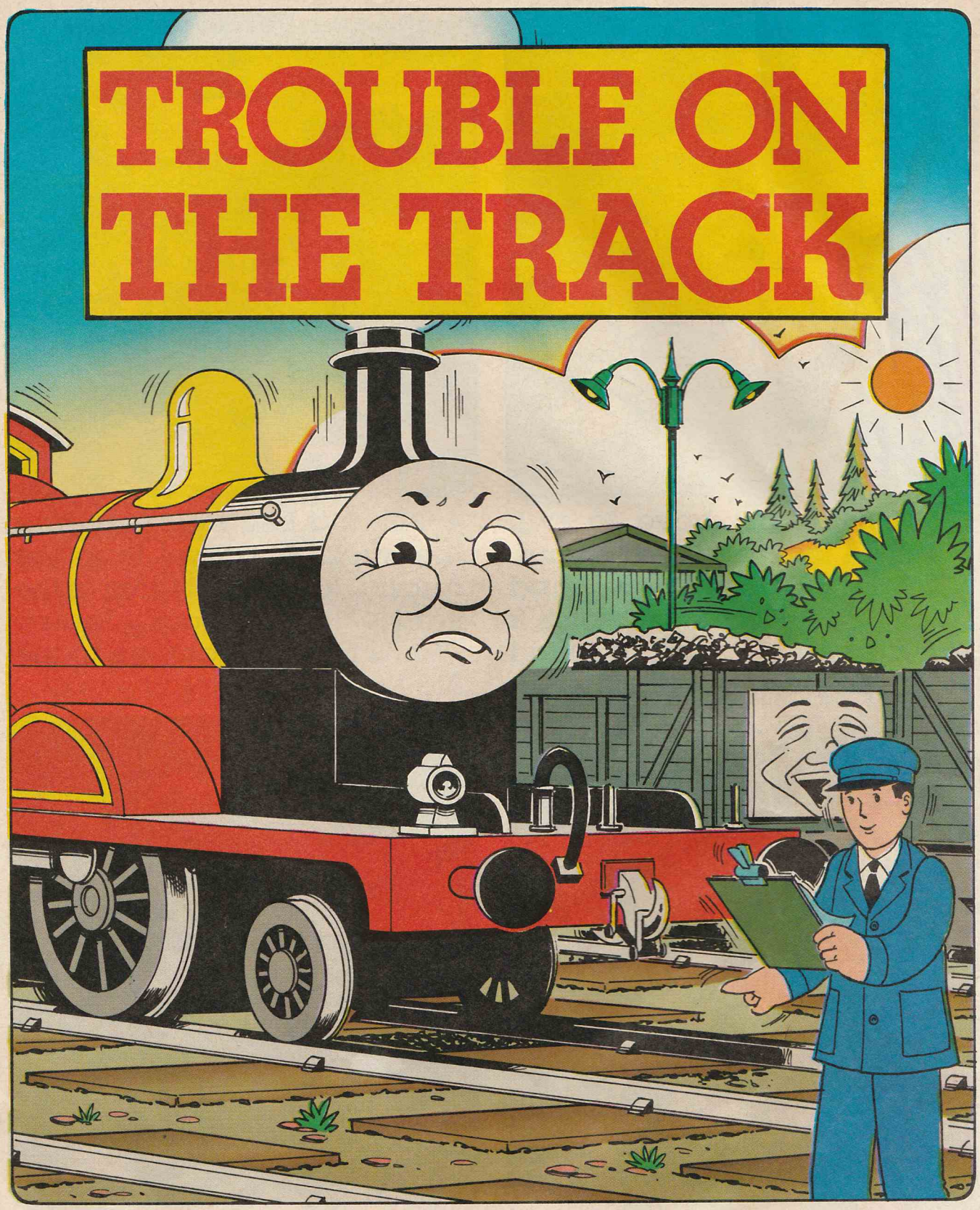
ABC

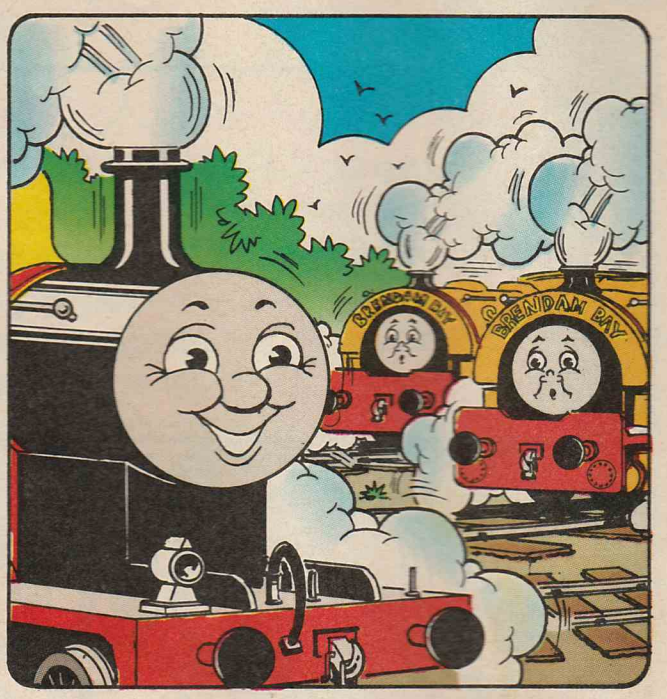
A listen and look story!



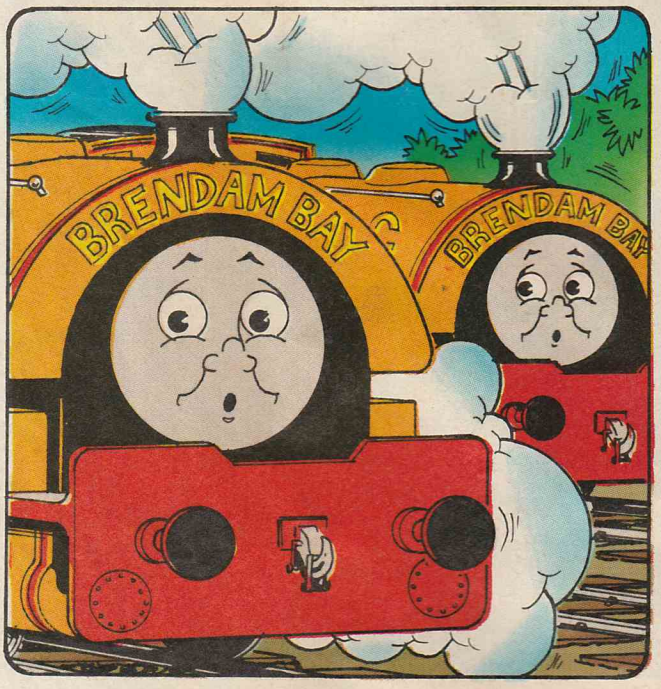
1. James is the red engine. He is number five on the Fat Controller's railway. He often has his own ideas about the type of work a splendid engine like himself should do.

2. One morning James looked at his timetable. He was supposed to be taking some trucks of gravel down to the Big Harbour. James didn't want to do that!

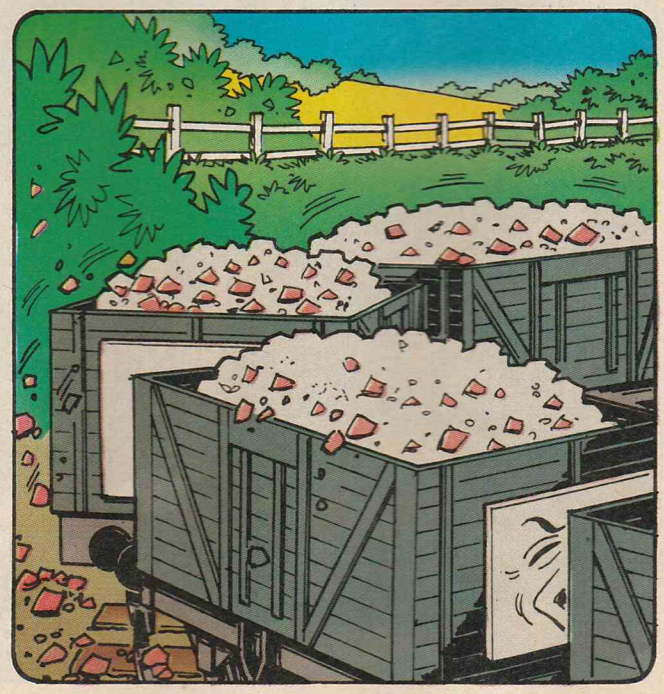
3. "I shouldn't have to pull trucks," complained James. "Trucks are so dirty, and gravel trucks are the worst! It seems like a job more suited to an engine like Bill or Ben."



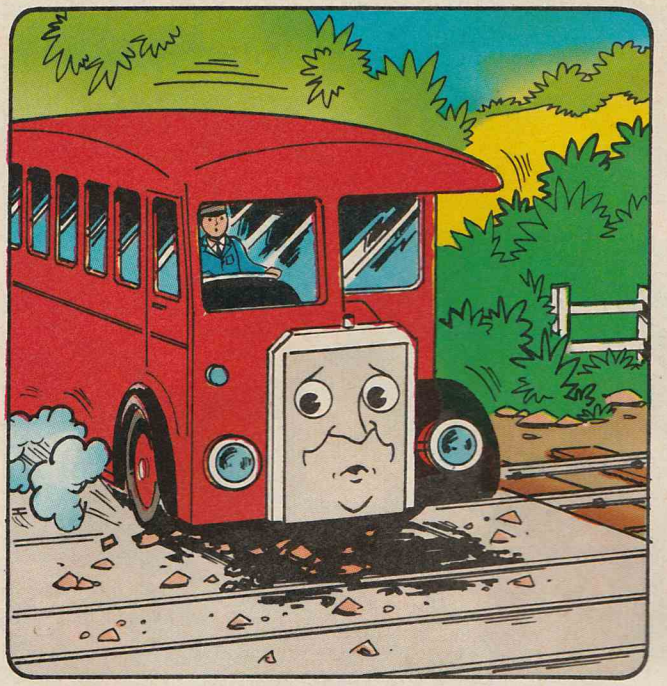
4. Bill and Ben were bringing the trucks of gravel from the quarry. James met them in the yard. "Hullo," said James. "You'll have to carry on to the Big Harbour today."



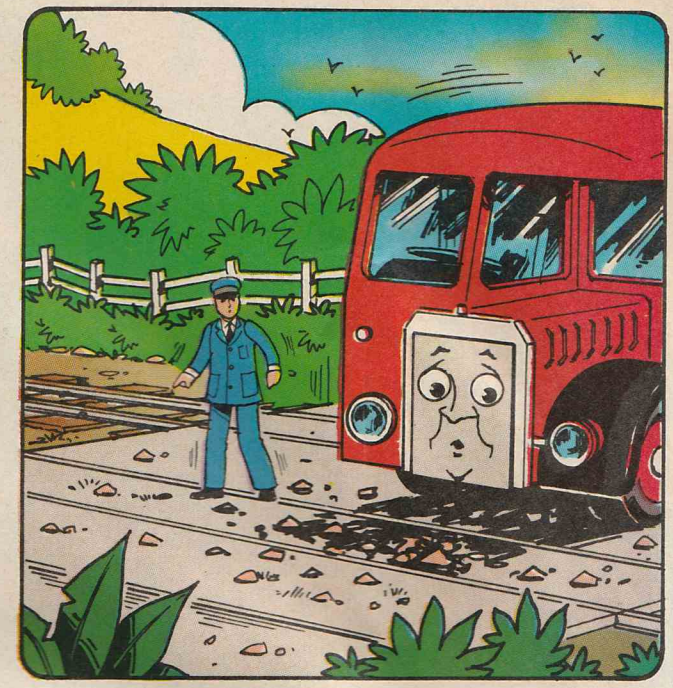
5. "But aren't you supposed to do that?" asked the twins. "No," said James, "I have a passenger train to pull!" James's train wasn't until much later that afternoon!



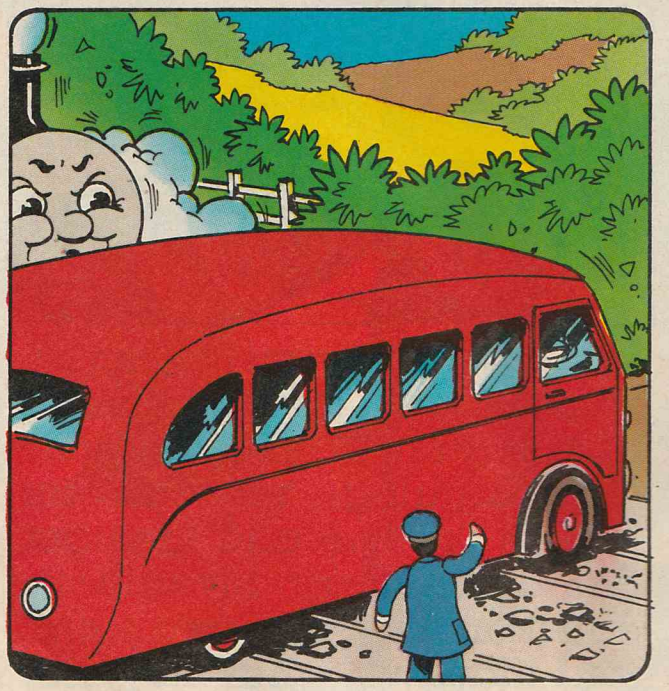
6. The twins set off for the Big Harbour. They were very tired and the trucks were very troublesome. They rattled, bumped and spilt their gravel.



7. Later that morning, just as Bertie the Bus was travelling over a level crossing, there came a loud BANG! Then a HISS! Bertie had a flat tyre right on the main line!

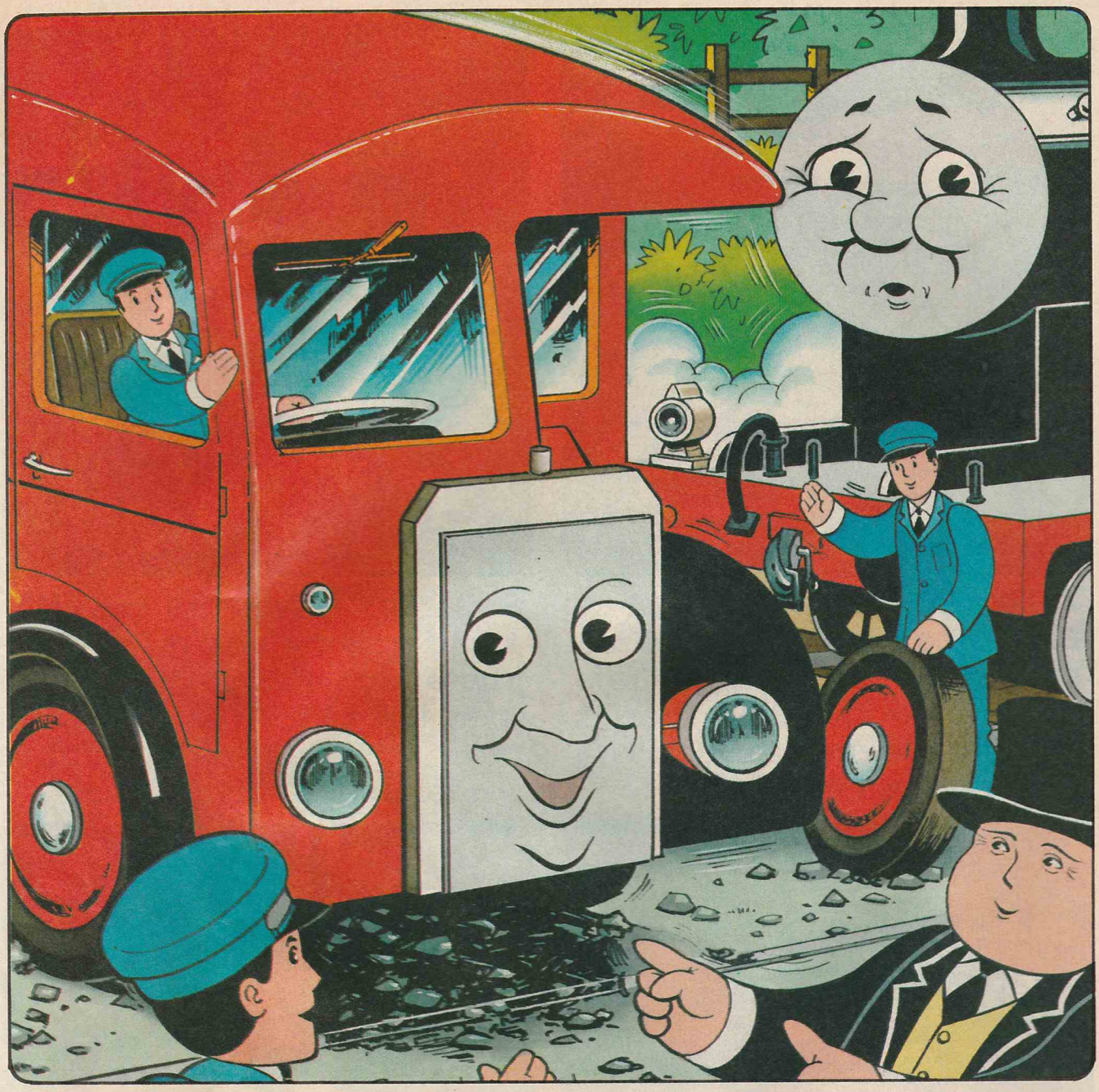


8. Bertie's driver got out. No wonder Bertie had a flat tyre. There was sharp gravel all over the place! He was very cross. Just then along came James pulling his coaches.



9. "Peep, peep! Look out!" he whistled. James had to stop. Bertie was right across the track. "It's not my fault!" said Bertie. "A train has been spilling gravel everywhere!"

10. "That's not my fault," said James. "I'm pulling coaches, not dirty trucks!" Just then Bill and Ben came back along the opposite track with the empty gravel trucks.



11. The trucks overheard what James was saying. "It's not our fault at all, we didn't spill the gravel. It was the twins' fault!" shouted the trucks. "Ha!" cried Bill and Ben crossly. "We woudn't be pulling these trucks at all, if James had helped us!" At last the Fat Controller arrived to sort the problem out!

12. "I don't want to know whose fault it is," said the Fat Controller. "If you engines stop arguing, we can fix Bertie's flat tyre and then get him off the track! My railway can then run properly again!" And that's just what they did! Then the Fat Controller asked James to take the next gravel train. So James had to pull trucks after all!

THE END

In our next issue: Hat on the line!

HEARD THE NEWS?

A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF STORIES FOR YOU!

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

MARVEL

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

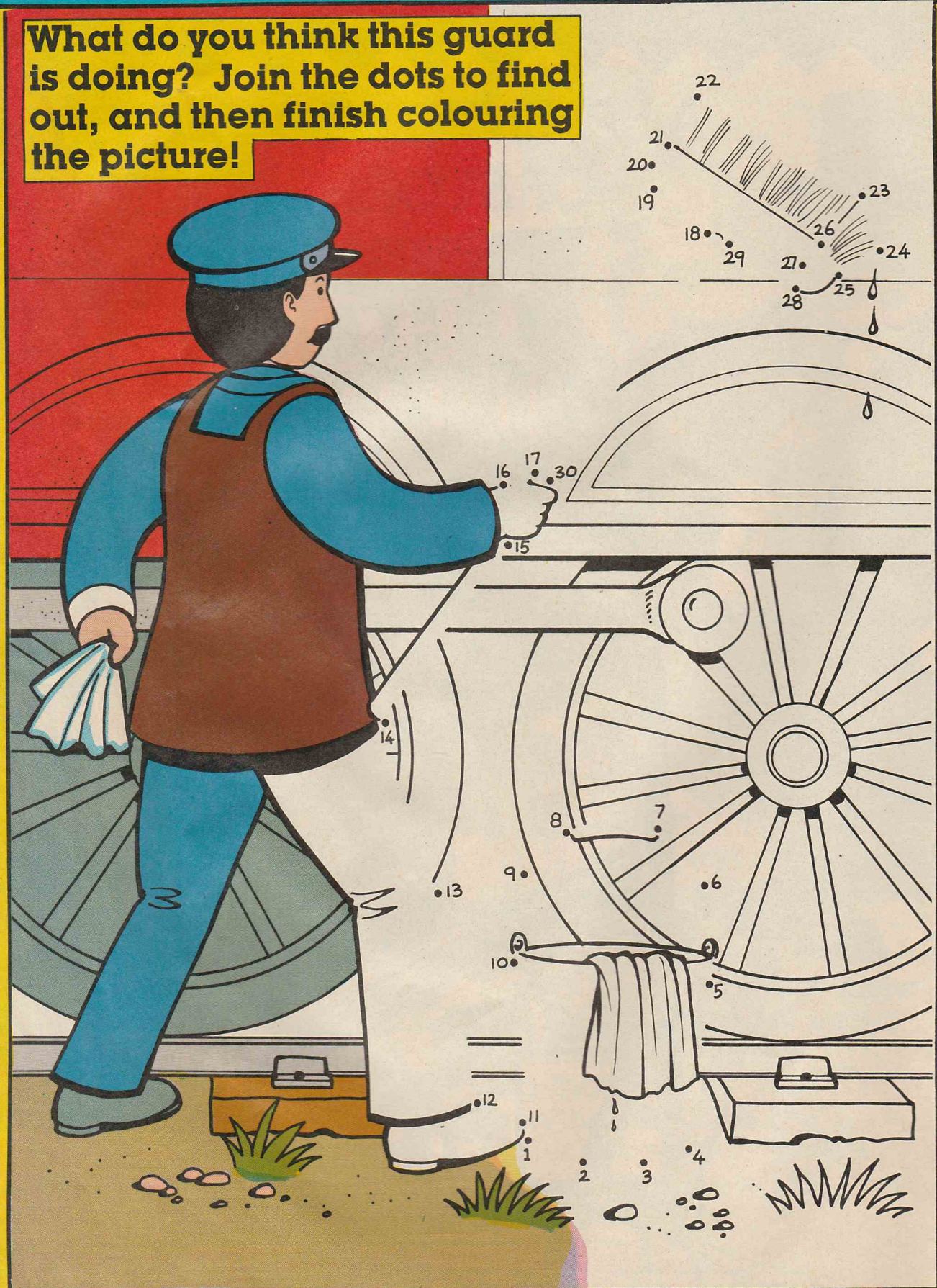
REPRINTED FROM ISSUES 13,14,17-21,23-26,32 & 33.

COLLECTED EDITION 4

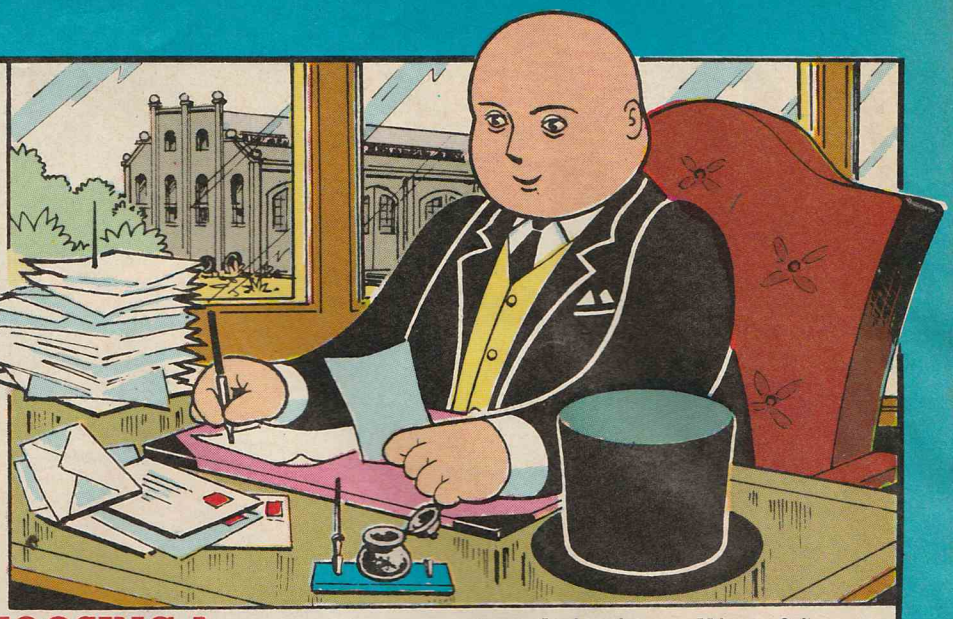
ON SALE NOW!

JOIN THE DOTS!

What do you think this guard is doing? Join the dots to find out, and then finish colouring the picture!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
The other day I fell over and cut my chin, while I was playing trains with my friends. I had to go to hospital to have stitches! I was very frightened, but when it was all over the nurse gave me a **Thomas the Tank Engine** certificate, for being brave!

Love from **Kevin,** aged 5.
(Mem. no. 33321)

Gracious me... *As you were so brave, I'm sending you one of our* ***'Star Letter'*** *prizes too!*

★★★★★★★★★

Kevin wins a a splendid Thomas the Tank lunchbox and carry flask from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

CHOOSING A NAME!

Dear Fat Controller,
My friend's cat has just had 6 kittens! Yesterday morning we were all trying to think of names for them. In the afternoon, when we went to see them, they were purring so loudly that they sounded like steam trains! So now we have decided to name them after your engines!

Love from **Douglas,** aged 6.

What a splendid idea! I once had a little kitten myself, you know! I gave him to Stephen and Bridget, my two grandchildren, to look after!

COUNTING TRUCKS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I live in a house, close to a railway embankment! From my bedroom window I can see all four train lines! I love watching the trains, even the noisy ones! One day, Mummy and I counted a goods train pulling 36 trucks! I hope that they all behaved themselves!

Best wishes, from **Kevin.**

Upon my soul! *That must have been a very long train indeed – it must have taken such a long time to pass your window!*

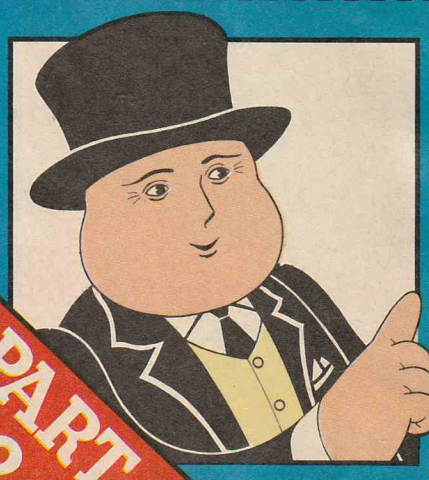
BIRTHDAYS!

Glenn Ballam (30770), Emma Gray (31741), Martin Wright, Caroline Sanderson, Vijaiya Prashan, Paul O'Keefe, Ashley Wells, Christopher Vincent (3061), Thomas Stead (31629), Gavin Rollings, Richard Matthews (31128), Anna Marie Lettings, Andrew Little (32386), Simon Christopher Brown (31710), Kerri Thompson (25508), David Paul Williams, James Burman (31710), Graham Lynn (28394), Daryl Gray (33744), Sharon Thomspon, Mark Danning, Robert Norris (31299), Benjamin Hitchen, Craig Wallace (33180), Christopher Hargreave, Sarah Applegate, Timothy Norris (6948), Matthew Stevens, Marcus Armatidge and Adam Matthews (8886).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.



PART 2

COUNT WITH THE FAT CONTROLLER!

Welcome to the second part of a very special four part counting mural I have for you! I do hope that you've already collected the first part! When you've answered all the questions on the opposite page, make sure that you hang this centrespread safely alongside the first part, on your wall – and then wait for our next issue, to continue Thomas's train!

How many flat trucks can you see?

How many birds are flying in the sky?

How many milk churns can you see?

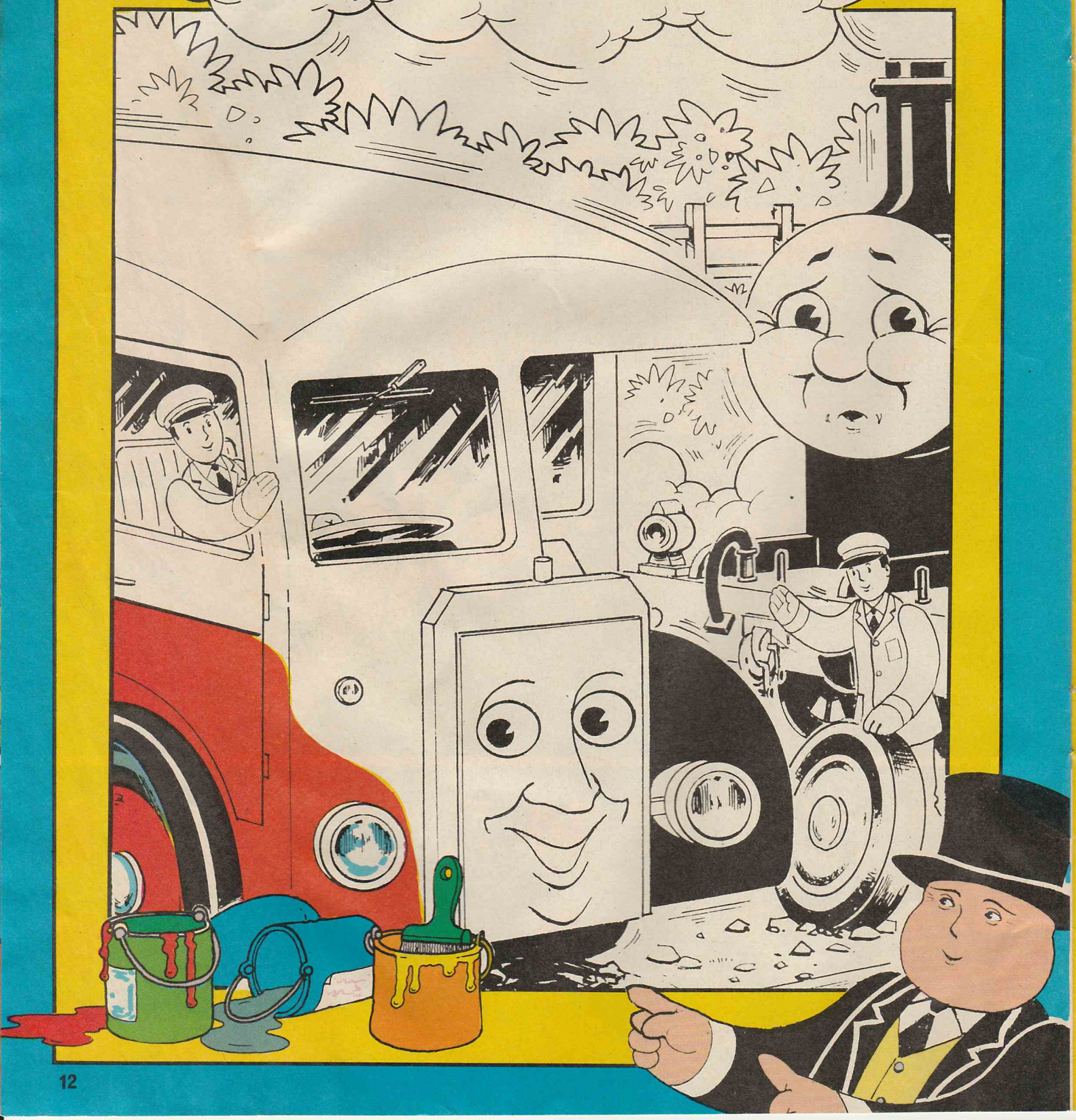
How many bales of hay can you see?

How many people can you see?

Next issue: There are more trucks to come!

COLOURING TIME!

Colour in this splendid scene,
In red, yellow, blue and green!

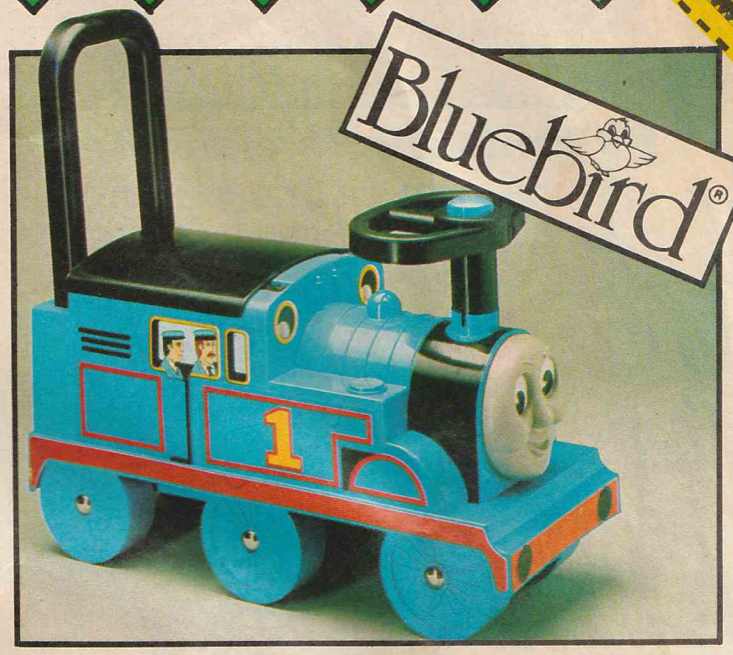


COMPETITION

Special Competition Token No1.

16 THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE SIT 'N' RIDE BABY WALKERS TO BE WON!

This is the first of a two part competition in which you could win one of **16** splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Sit 'n' Ride Baby Walkers** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.* All you have to do for the first part of this competition is cut out the special corner token on this page and keep it safe, until our next issue! The second part will contain another special token, together with a splendid picture of one of the Fat Controller's engines, for you to colour!



Don't miss part two! In issue 76!

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

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Address .....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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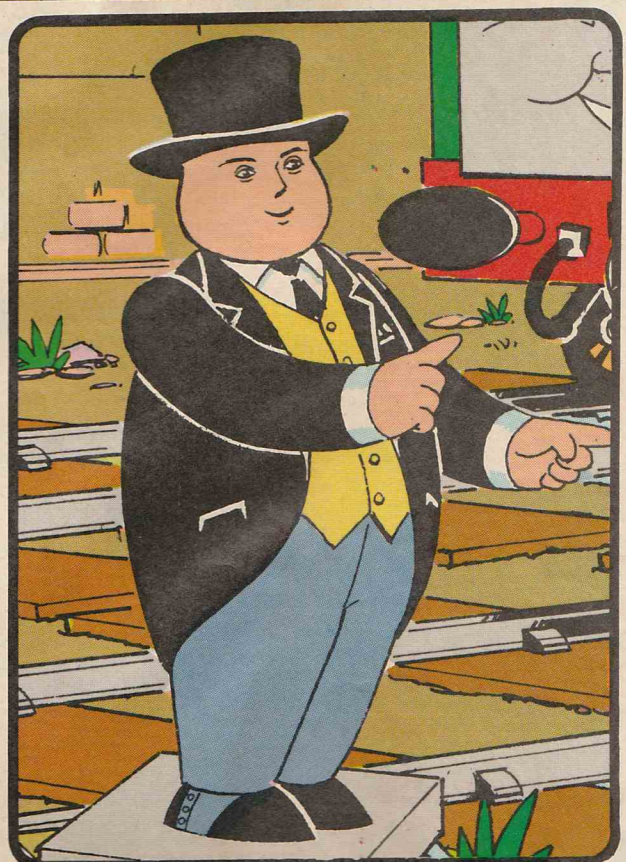


A read aloud story!

Emergency!

Thomas was working on his branch line, pulling Annie and Clarabel. It was a lovely summer's day, perfect for singing as they travelled up and down the country line.

"Hurry along, hurry along," sang Thomas cheekily.

"We're following you, we're following you," replied Annie and Clarabel.

They were just starting to make their way back towards the Main Station, when Thomas's guard called to his driver.

"Emergency! Emergency!" he cried.

"What's the matter?" asked Thomas's driver.

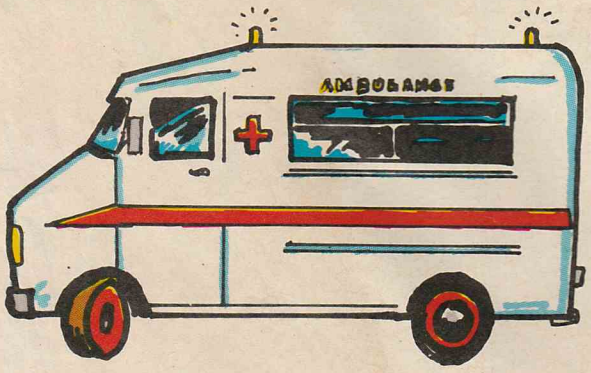
"There's a man back here, in Annie, and he's very sick," explained the guard. "He needs to get to a hospital quickly!"

"Did you hear that, Thomas?" asked his driver.

"Yes," said Thomas, "but the closest hospital is the one near the Main Station! There are three more stations before we get there."

"This is an emergency, Thomas!" said his driver. "We won't be stopping!"

"Yes, sir!" said Thomas.



ambulance

Thomas's fireman shovelled on the coal. Thomas went as quickly as he could.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry," he sang. He knew it was important he had to go fast.

"Peeep peeep!" he whistled as the train rushed through the first station.

"Thomas's driver sent a message ahead to the Main Station to have an ambulance standing by.

"Peeep peeep!" Thomas sped through the second station as well. The waiting passengers were just a blur.

"Peeep peeep!" The third

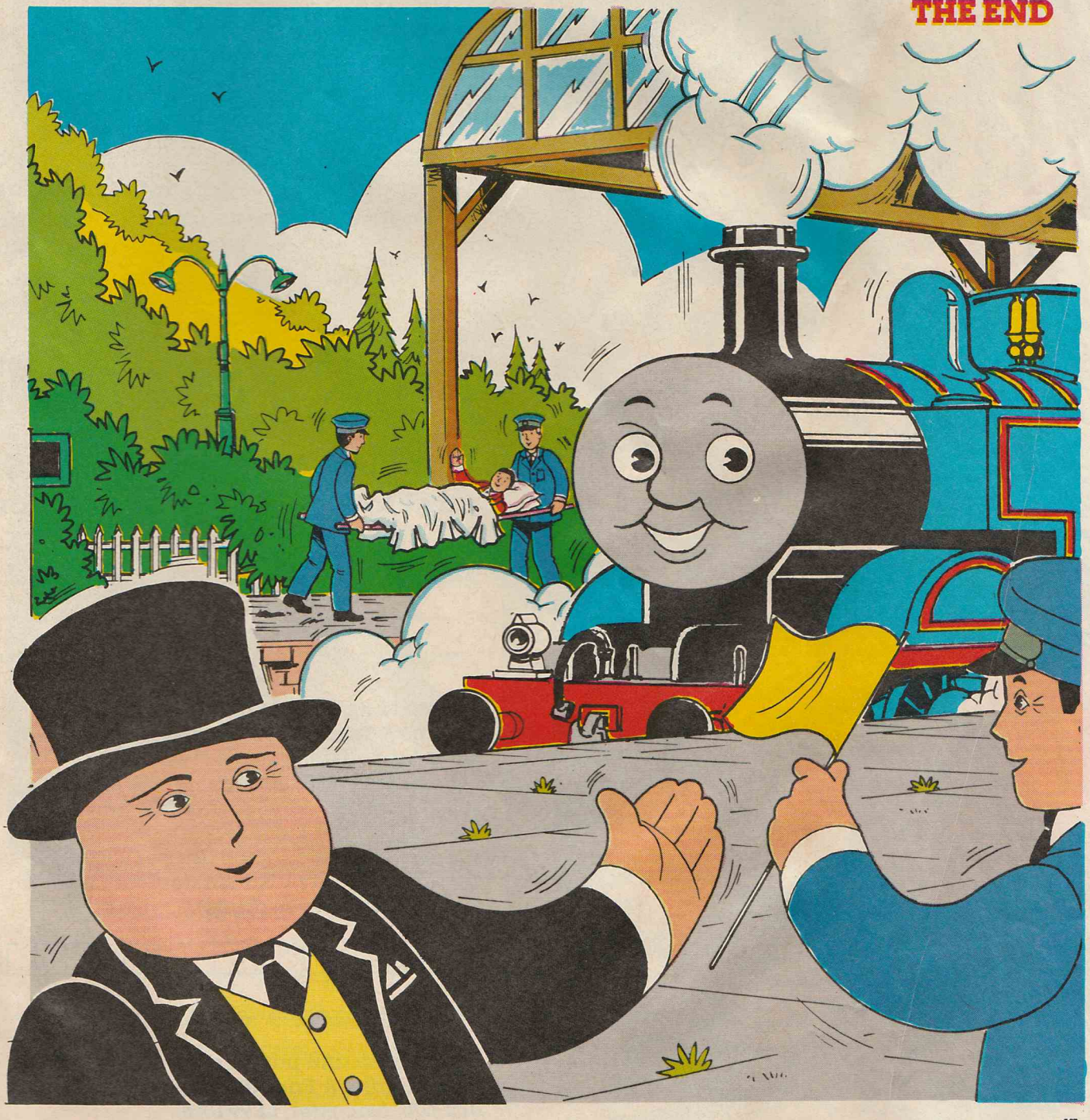
station was behind them now. Thomas's boiler was very hot, but he kept going.

At last they reached the station. **Skreeech!** Thomas pulled up sharply at the platform. The ambulance was waiting to rush the sick man off to hospital.

Thomas's passengers cheered. They weren't cross that Thomas hadn't stopped at their stations. The guard had told them about the sick man and they wanted to get him to hospital as soon as possible.

The Fat Controller praised Thomas. "You are a Really Useful Engine indeed!" he said.

THE END



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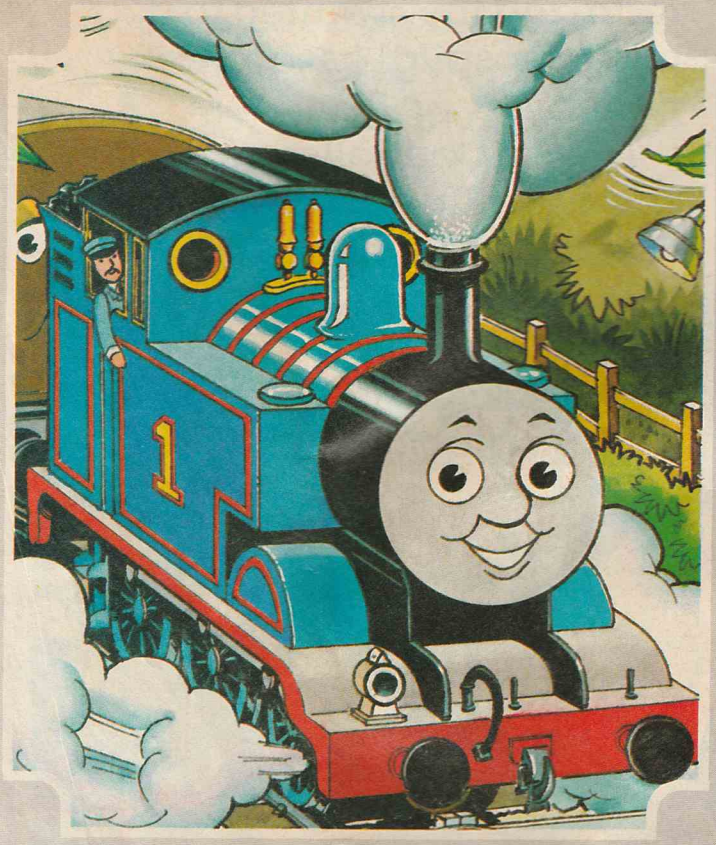

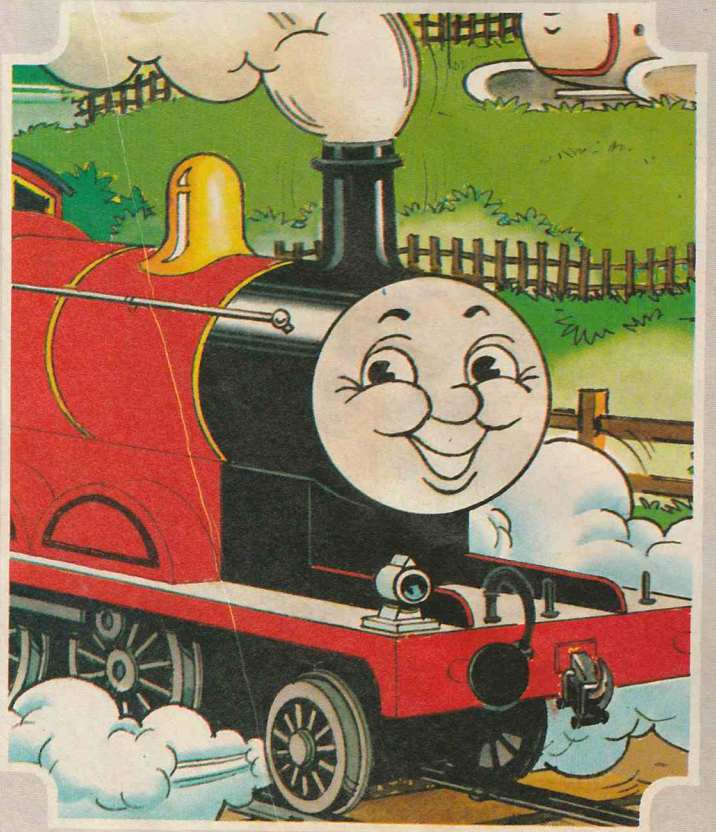

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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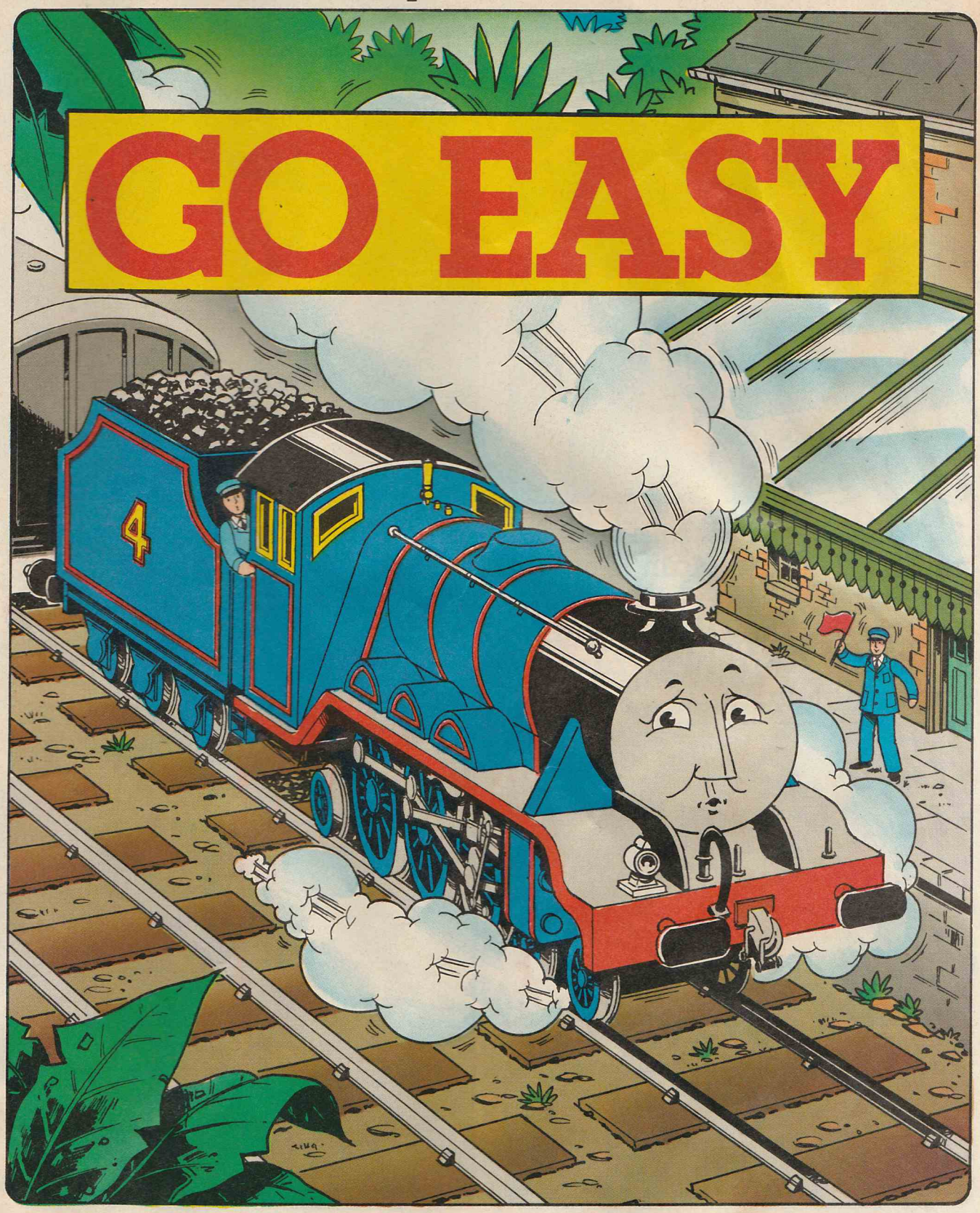
Signature ..... Expiry date .....

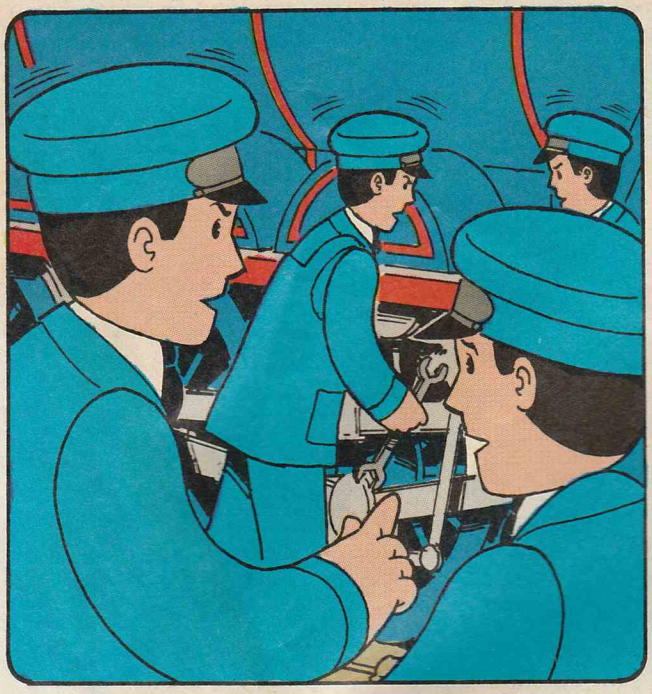
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

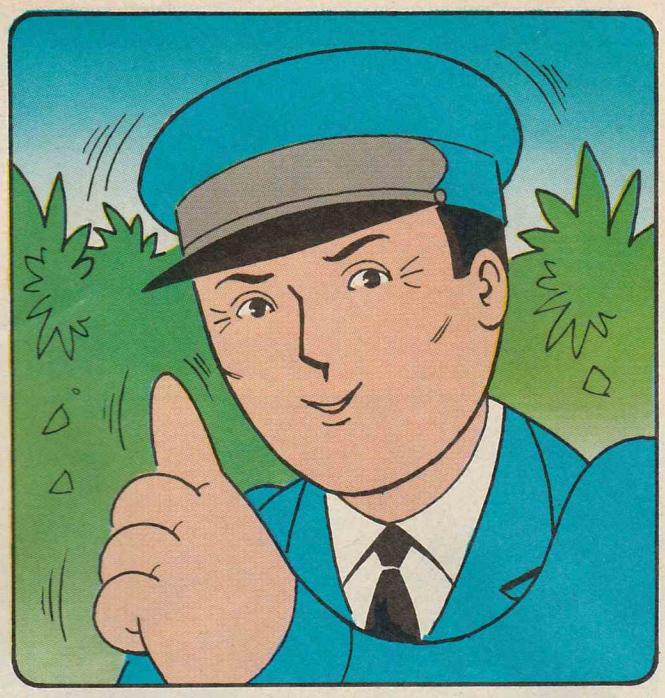


1. Gordon is the strongest and fastest engine on the Island of Sodor. He is the Fat Controller's big blue express engine and he's extremely proud of it, too.

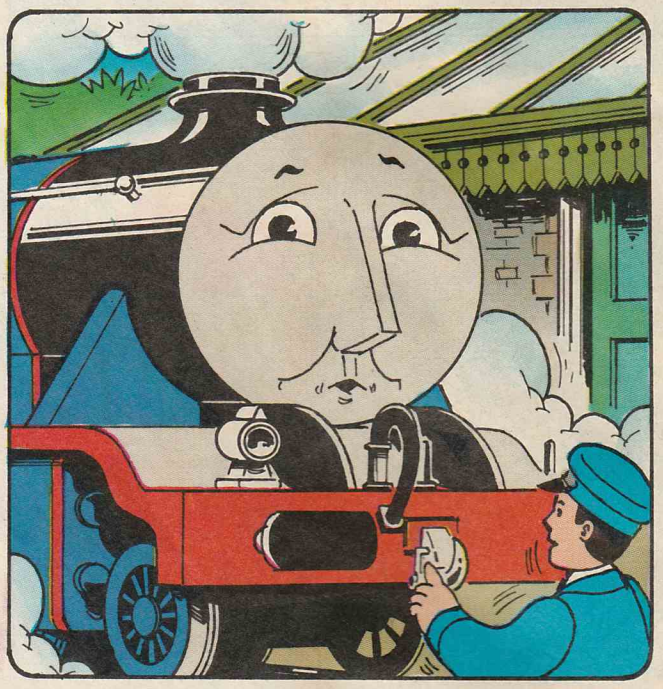
2. One day, Gordon's driver heard a peculiar sound as Gordon was slowing down to stop at one of the stations. There was a squealing noise coming from the brakes.



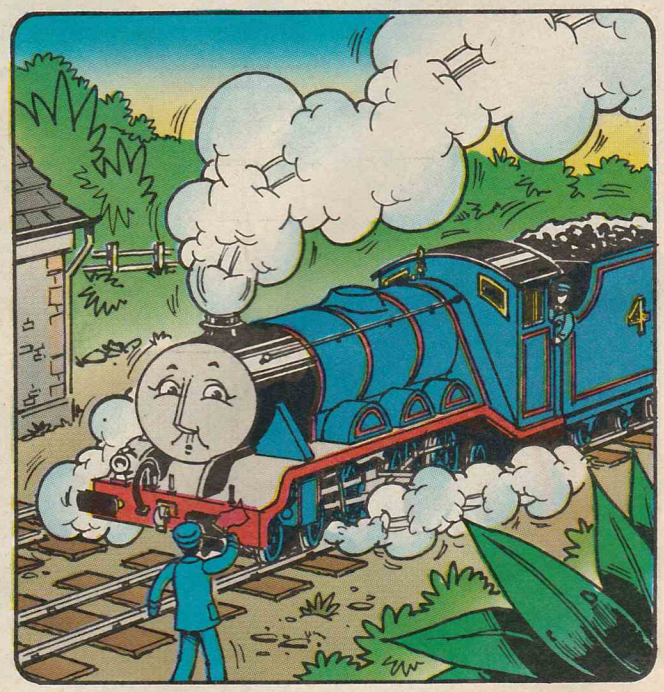
3. When Gordon returned to the yard at the Main Station, his driver went to see the engineers. They came over to inspect Gordon's brakes immediately.



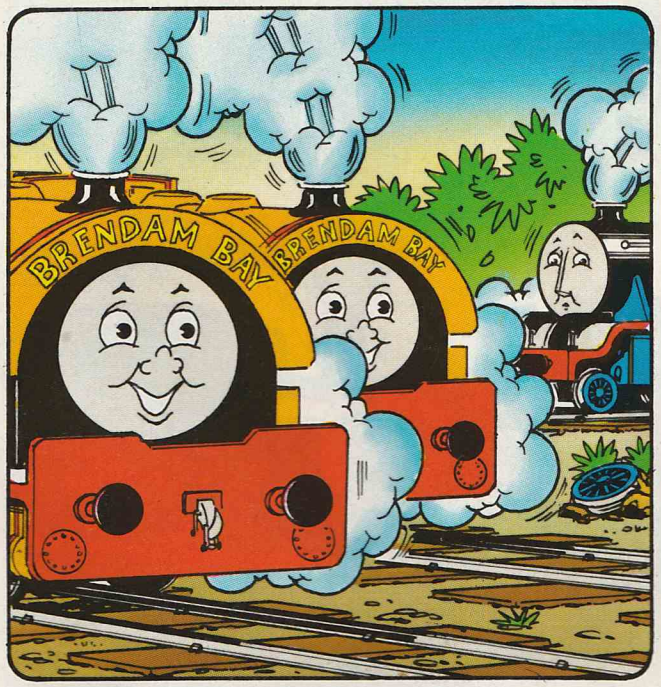
4. "Your brakes shouldn't cause any problems for today," said the chief engineer, "as long as you go easy. We'll fix them tomorrow."



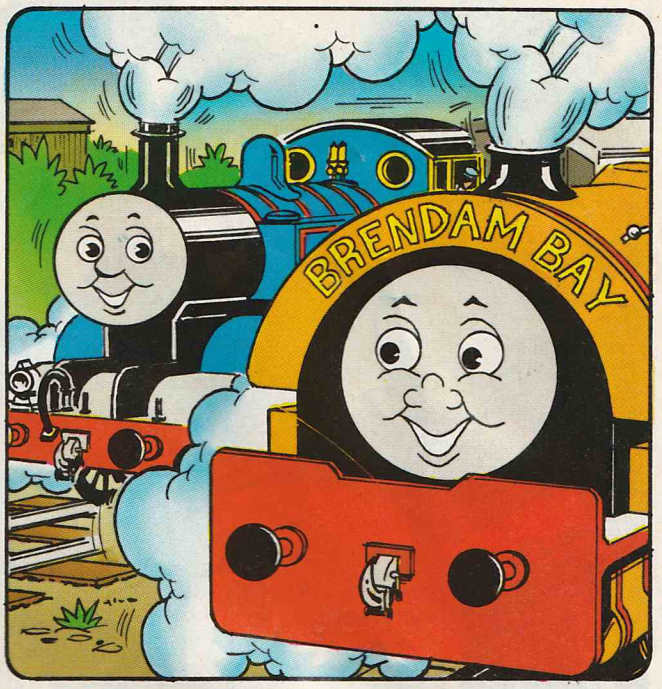
5. "What do you mean by 'go easy'?" asked Gordon. "Just take your time," said the chief engineer. "You'll have no trouble with them as long as you don't go too fast."



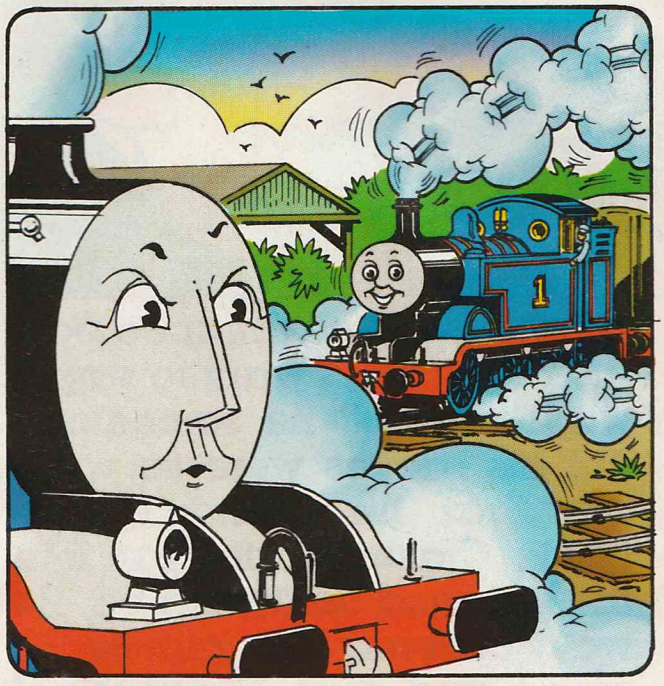
6. So Gordon went carefully with the Express. But soon the other engines had heard all about Gordon's 'going easy'. Bill and Ben thought it was extremely funny indeed!



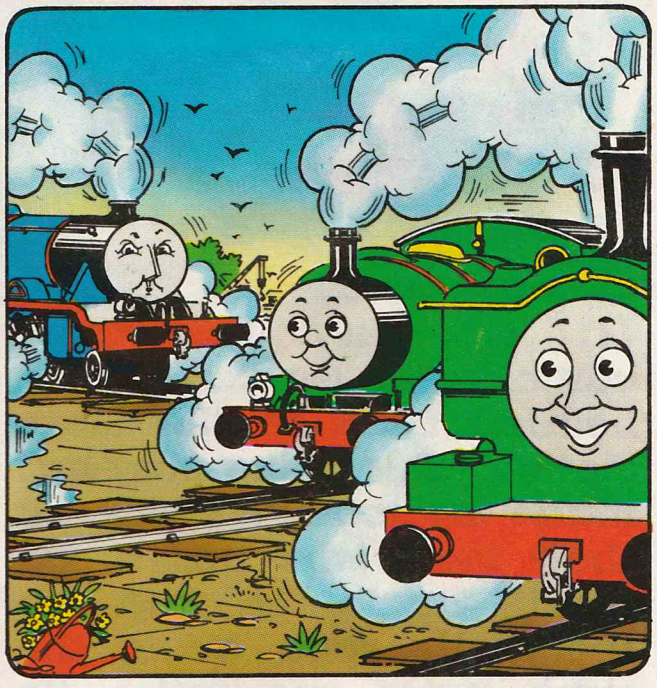
7. "Have you seen Gordon?" Bill asked Thomas. "Don't you mean the Express?" Bill asked Ben. "That must be the slowest Express I've ever seen!" joked Bill, laughing.



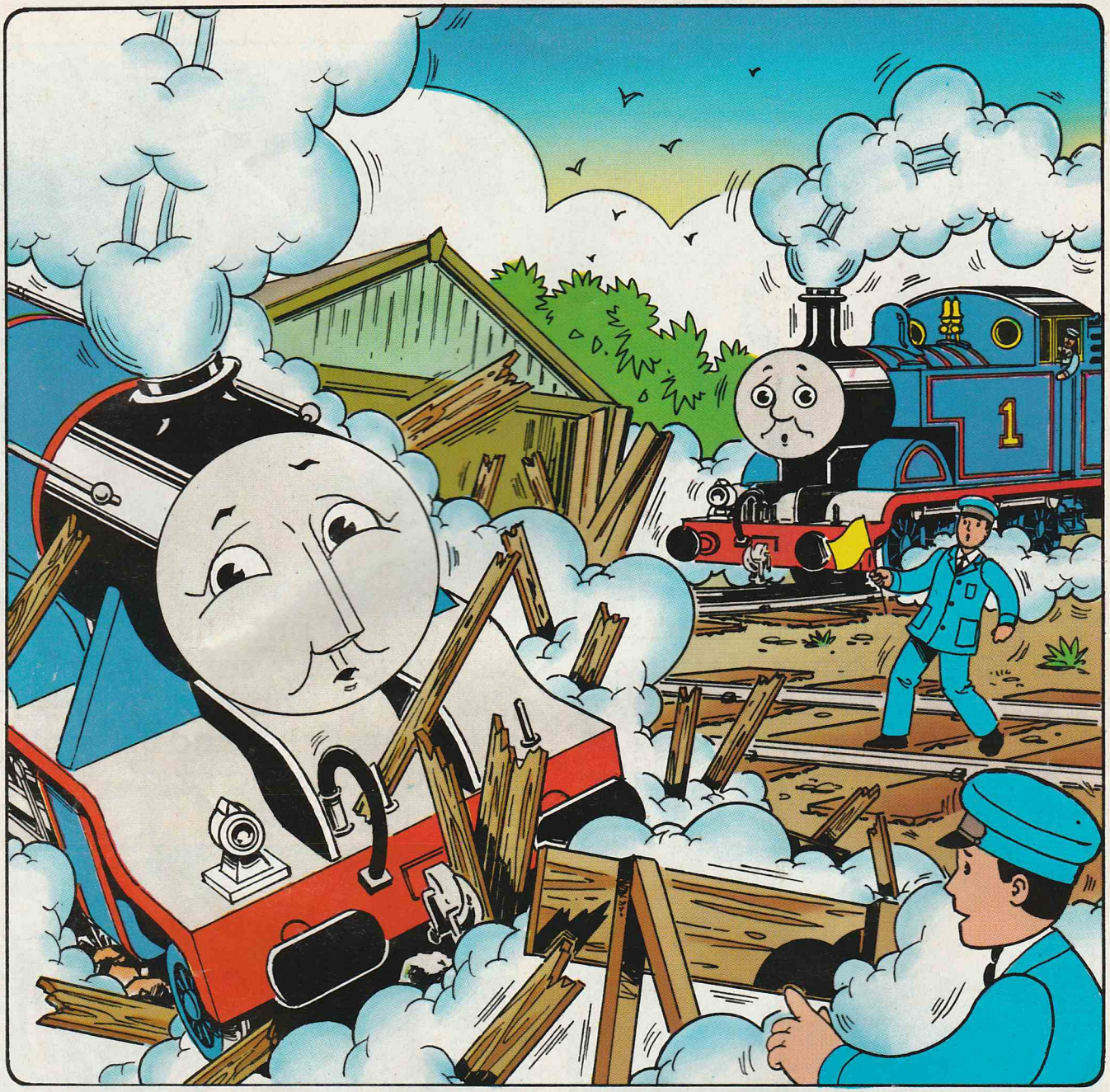
8. "I'm just bringing Gordon his coaches," said Thomas. "No hurry," said Ben. "It's only the Express!" Bill and Ben both started laughing again. Thomas laughed too.



9. "You have been a long time," said Gordon when Thomas eventually brought his coaches. "I thought you were taking your time," teased Thomas.



10. All the engines continued to tease Gordon, the slow Express! "What is the slowest train on the line?" asked Duck. "The Express!" laughed Percy. Gordon was very cross.



11. "Go easy! Go easy!" complained Gordon as he headed back to the Main Station. "This going easy has made me look very silly. I'll show them who has to go easy!" Gordon picked up speed. He sped along the track faster and faster. He forgot all about his worn out brakes. Then at the Main Station he tried to slow down...

12. **Whoosh**! Gordon sped past the platform. "I want to stop, I want to stop!" he screeched. But his brakes were so worn out that he couldn't stop until... **Crash**! Gordon ran into the old shed on the siding. He was covered in pieces of wood and dust. "Dear me, I should have gone easy, just like I was told," sighed Gordon sadly.

THE END

In our next issue: Newly painted!